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Minutes of proceedings and
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1960

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Third Session—Twenty-fourth Parliament

1960

Canada, Parliament, House of Commons.
Special Committee on Broadcasting
Minutes of proceedings and evidence
1960

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON

BROADCASTING

Chairman: Mr. LOUIS FORTIN



PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 1960

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1960

MONDAY, JULY 25, 1960

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1960

INCLUDING FIRST REPORT TO THE HOUSE

THE QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY
OTTAWA, 1960

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
BROADCASTING

Chairman: Mr. Louis Fortin

Vice-Chairman: Mr. G. E. Halpenny
and Messrs.

Aitken (Miss)
Asselin
Bourbonnais
Brassard (*Lapointe*)
Caron
Casselman (Mrs.)
Chown
Creaghan
Danforth
Dorion
Drouin

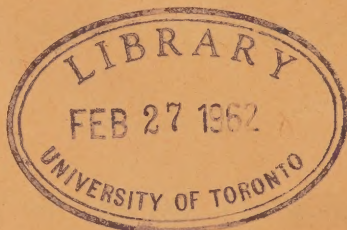
Fairfield
Fisher
Forge
Keays
Lambert
MacEwan
Macquarrie
McCleave
McGrath
McIntosh
McQuillan

Pickersgill
Pratt
Pugh
Richard (*Ottawa East*)
Robichaud
Rouleau
Simpson
Smith (*Calgary South*)
Smith (*Simcoe North*)
Tremblay
Webb

(Quorum 10)

Clyde Lyons,
Clerk of the Committee.

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ORDERS OF REFERENCE

TUESDAY, June 21, 1960.

Resolved—That a Special Committee be appointed on Broadcasting to consider radio and television broadcasting with power to examine and inquire into the matters herein referred to and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon and to send for persons, papers and records;

That the Committee have power to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be deemed advisable or necessary;

That the Committee shall consist of 35 Members;

That Standing Orders 66 and 67 be suspended in relation thereto.

TUESDAY, July 5, 1960.

Ordered—That a Special Committee on Broadcasting, appointed June 21, 1960, be composed of Miss Aitken, Mrs. Casselman, and Messrs. Asselin, Bourbonnais, Brassard (*Lapointe*), Caron, Chown, Creaghan, Danforth, Dorion, Drouin, Fairfield, Fisher, Forgie, Fortin, Halpenny, Keays, Lambert, MacEwan, Macquarrie, McCleave, McGrath, McIntosh, McQuillan, Pickersgill, Pratt, Pugh, Richard (*Ottawa East*), Robichaud, Rouleau, Simpson, Smith (*Calgary South*), Smith (*Simcoe North*), Tremblay, and Webb.

Attest.

L.-J. RAYMOND,
Clerk of the House.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

REPORT TO THE HOUSE

THURSDAY, July 28, 1960.

The Special Committee on Broadcasting has the honour to present the following as its

FIRST REPORT

On June 21, 1960, the Committee received from the House the following order of Reference:

"That a Special Committee be appointed on Broadcasting to consider radio and television broadcasting with power to examine and inquire into the matters herein referred to and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon and to send for persons, papers and records;

That the Committee have power to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be deemed advisable or necessary;

That the Committee shall consist of 35 Members;

That Standing Orders 66 and 67 be suspended in relation thereto."

Your Committee held three meetings and unanimously decided not to proceed at this time.

Your Committee recommends:

1. That a Special Committee on Broadcasting be appointed as soon as possible after the opening of the next regular session of Parliament.

2. That the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the Board of Broadcast Governors and the Canadian Association of Broadcasters be invited to submit briefs during the recess of Parliament, with special emphasis on their appraisal of the workings of the Broadcasting Act as it affects their organization in particular or broadcasting in general; and more particularly with regard to the C.B.C., that it outline its responses and reasons therefor, to the recommendations of the House Committee on Broadcasting of 1959, in order to allow the members to have a better understanding of their views and thus facilitate the work of the Committee during the next session of Parliament; and that the Committee be given an opportunity to examine the Broadcasting Act of 1958.

A copy of the Committee's proceedings is appended.

Respectfully submitted,

LOUIS FORTIN,
Chairman.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, July 19, 1960.
(1)

The Special Committee on Broadcasting met at 1.30 p.m. for organization purposes, pursuant to notice.

Members present: Mrs. Casselman and Messrs. Asselin, Caron, Dorion, Fairfield, Fortin, Halpenny, Keays, Lambert, MacEwan, McCleave, McGrath, McIntosh, Pugh, Smith (*Calgary South*) and Webb.—16

There being no quorum, the meeting adjourned at 1.50 p.m.

M. Slack,
Acting Clerk of the Committee.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, July 20, 1960.
(2)

The Special Committee on Broadcasting met at 9.25 a.m. this day for organization purposes.

Members present: Miss Aitken, Mrs. Casselman, and Messrs. Asselin, Caron, Danforth, Fairfield, Fortin, Halpenny, Keays, Lambert, MacEwan, McCleave, McIntosh, McQuillan, Pickersgill, Pratt, Pugh, Richard (*Ottawa East*), Robichaud, Rouleau, Smith (*Calgary South*), Smith (*Simcoe North*) and Webb.—23

Moved by Mr. Smith (*Calgary South*), seconded by Mr. Asselin, that Mr. Louis Fortin be Chairman.

Moved by Mr. Pickersgill, seconded by Mr. Robichaud, that Miss Aitken be Chairman.

Miss Aitken asked that her name be withdrawn.

Moved by Mr. Pickersgill, seconded by Mr. Robichaud, that Mrs. Casselman be Chairman.

Mrs. Casselman asked that her name be withdrawn.

Moved by Mr. Pickersgill, seconded by Mr. Robichaud, that Mr. Caron be Chairman.

On the motion of Mr. Halpenny, seconded by Mr. MacEwan, nominations were closed.

The motion of Mr. Smith (*Calgary South*), was carried on the following division: YEAS: 15; NAYS: 4.

Mr. Fortin was declared elected and took the Chair. He thanked the Committee for the honour conferred upon him.

On the motion of Mr. Fairfield, seconded by Mr. Keays, Mr. Halpenny was elected Vice-Chairman.

The Orders of Reference were read.

Mr. Pickersgill moved, seconded by Mr. Robichaud, "That the Committee suspend its sittings and report to the House that a similar Committee be set up at the beginning of the next session."

The motion was negatived on the following division: YEAS: 5; NAYS: 16.

Mr. Halpenny moved, seconded by Mr. Smith (*Calgary South*), "That a Steering Committee be formed and that this Committee consider the advisability of the continuation of the Broadcasting Committee until prorogation of the session."

Mr. Pickersgill then asked that the Committee make a Clause-by-Clause study of the Broadcasting Act and that the Honourable Mr. Nowlan be called as the first witness. The Chairman said the Steering Committee would take it under consideration.

Mr. Halpenny's motion was approved unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Keays, seconded by Mr. McCleave,
Resolved,—That a subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure, comprising the Chairman and 6 members to be named by him, be appointed.

On a motion of Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Fairfield,
Resolved,—That, pursuant to its Order of Reference of June 21, 1960, this Committee print 750 copies in English and 250 copies in French of its Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence.

On the motion of Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Smith (*Calgary South*),
Resolved,—That the quorum of this Committee be set at 10 members.

A motion to request permission to sit while the House is sitting was left in abeyance.

At 10.10 a.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

MONDAY, July 25, 1960.
(2)

The Special Committee on Broadcasting met at 9.30 a.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Louis Fortin, presided.

Members present: Mrs. Casselman; Messrs. Chown, Danforth, Fairfield, Fisher, Forgie, Fortin, Halpenny, Lambert, MacEwan, McCleave, McGrath, McIntosh, Pickersgill, Pratt, Richard (*Ottawa East*), Robichaud, Simpson and Webb.—19

The Chairman announced that Messrs. Fortin, Fairfield, Fisher, McGrath, Pickersgill, Robichaud and Smith (*Calgary South*) comprised the Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure.

The Chairman asked for a report from the Sub-committee but as no decision had been reached, the Committee was asked for suggestions on future procedure.

Mr. Pickersgill moved, seconded by Mr. Forgie: "That, if the Committee is to hold any hearings, the first order of business should be to call the Minister of National Revenue to examine him section by section on the Broadcasting Act of 1958."

The motion was negatived on the following division: YEAS: 5; NAYS: 13.

Mr. Fisher moved, seconded by Mr. Robichaud: "That the Chairman of this Committee ask the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, the Board of Broadcast Governors, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, each to file with the Clerk of this Committee a report on their appraisal of the workings of the Broadcasting Act as it affects their organization in particular or broadcasting in general; and more particularly with regard to the C.B.C., that it outline its responses and reasons therefor, to the recommendations of the House Committee on Broadcasting of 1959."

This motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Halpenny moved, seconded by Mr. McCleave: "That this Committee recommend to the House that a Special Broadcasting Committee be appointed as soon as possible after the opening of the next regular session to consider the reports mentioned in Mr. Fisher's motion and to study the Broadcasting Act."

This motion was adopted unanimously.

At 10.15 a.m. the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

THURSDAY, July 28, 1960.
(3)

The Special Committee on Broadcasting met *in camera* at 9 a.m. The Chairman, Mr. Louis Fortin, presided.

Members present: Miss Aitken, Messrs. Asselin, Fairfield, Fisher, Forgie, Fortin, Halpenny, Lambert, MacEwan, Macquarrie, McCleave, Pickersgill, Pratt, Smith (*Simcoe North*), and Webb—15.

The Chairman presented a draft report for the consideration of the Committee.

The Committee amended the draft report and this report as amended was adopted unanimously.

The Chairman was instructed to present it to the House.

The Committee adjourned.

Clyde Lyons,
Clerk of the Committee.

PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY, July 25, 1960.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, please, gentlemen.

Before we get down to business this morning I would like to advise the committee that the following members have been appointed to the steering committee, namely: Mr. Halpenny, Mr. Smith (*Calgary South*), Mr. Fairfield, Mr. McGrath, Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. Robichaud and Mr. Fisher.

As it was impossible for me to attend the meeting of the steering committee, I would like to ask Mr. Halpenny, or any other member of the steering committee, to make a short report on this meeting.

Mr. HALPENNY: Well, Mr. Chairman, there was a discussion as to a possible agenda for this meeting. We could not actually come to any agreement; then we were called to the house, and here we are.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pickersgill.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few observations.

I was at the steering committee meeting and, as Mr. Halpenny has correctly said, I think it would be fair to say that we reached no kind of an agreement there. It was a very amiable meeting indeed—a friendly sort of meeting, and Mr. Halpenny's hospitality was very much enjoyed by all.

Mr. HALPENNY: It was all in good spirit.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Chairman, notwithstanding the softening up that was attempted, I took precisely the same position there that I took at the organization meeting, namely that, at this stage of the session, it was quite unrealistic to think of embarking upon a serious study of broadcasting at this session of parliament, and that we should wind the proceedings of this committee up as quickly as possible, and recommend to the house, in as strong language as the backbenchers supporting the government are willing to subscribe to, that the government, instead of behaving in the irresponsible way it has, should observe its responsibility at the next session, and make a motion at the beginning of the next session to set up a committee so that a proper study could be made of broadcasting.

If, however, there is any thought of having any proceedings in this committee this session—and only in those circumstances—I would like to make a motion as to what the proceedings should be. So that members will know what my motion is, it is this: that if we are to embark on any proceedings at all, I would move, seconded by Mr. Forgie, that the first business should be the hearing of the Minister of National Revenue on the operations of the Broadcasting Act of 1958—and that this should be taken up clause by clause. I am making that motion, Mr. Chairman, and I can always withdraw it, if the committee would agree to it.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fisher.

Mr. FISHER: Well, in commenting—

Mr. PICKERSGILL: If I may finish my comment. If, however, there was a consensus of view in the committee that it is quite unrealistic—as we think it is—to embark upon any hearings or proceedings in this committee, I see no particular point in dividing the committee on this motion now—if we are

not going to embark on any proceedings, but simply are going to report to the house that we think the best thing to do is to get the committee set up early at the next session; then I would not be disposed to press this motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you a comment, Mr. Lambert?

Mr. LAMBERT: Mr. Chairman, there is one comment I would like to make on my own, personally, since at the last meeting I opposed Mr. Pickersgill's views in connection with the unrealistic part of his observations. In connection with my thoughts that we would be able to start the hearings, I had based some reliance on the observations of his colleague, the member from Essex East who, last week, indicated the house may last another four weeks. Of course, if Mr. Pickersgill is not prepared to prescribe to Mr. Martin's views, he is quite entitled to do so. It may be that there is only a fortnight left, in which case it would be up to the committee to decide, in their estimate of the time that is available, what activities they should undertake.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Fisher.

Mr. FISHER: I might say that it was a very cordial meeting, but it left me with a somewhat different point of view than anyone else who attended.

I would like to see us go ahead this session, but I do not think we will have the time. The only way we would be able to crowd anything in would be by a crash program, with the committee meeting four or five times a week several times a day, and we do not want that, after our other experiences. I do not think we can take a calm and careful approach to anything, and cover it before the end of this session.

I am more optimistic than Mr. Martin about the end of the session. My thought is two weeks from last Friday.

I do feel I can support Mr. Pickersgill's motion—and I am interpreting this in majority-minority terms. If the majority of this committee wish to proceed, that would be it. However, I feel that what he has pointed out should be detailed. I have gone through the minister's report of last year and, in three places, he has given the assurance that this should be the first item of consideration. So, I can support Mr. Pickersgill's motion.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: On the point raised by Mr. Lambert, Mr. Martin's estimate of the length of the session is his own, like everyone else's, and I dare say that some of our thoughts may coincide in this regard. Everyone has his own ideas about this, and nobody knows. I sometimes wonder, in view of the irresolution of the present government, whether even Providence can keep up with it.

Mr. LAMBERT: This is Monday, Mr. Pickersgill—no headlines.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: There is no hope of getting any headlines today; the provincial premiers are here. But, I do think, whether the session lasts one, two, three or even four weeks, that when we are sitting from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and when there are still some other committees functioning, that that is true. I am sure that Mr. Lambert and I are not at very great differences. It is not realistic to attempt an examination—

Mr. LAMBERT: An examination of what?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: The Broadcasting Act, which is what the opposition was promised, and it was a promise which we accepted in good faith at the time that act was passed a few years ago, in exchange for foregoing a special committee on the provisions of the act which had been promised by the government, as mentioned in the speech from the throne at the beginning of that session.

Mr. HALPENNY: Before Mr. Pickersgill's motion is put to the committee, I would suggest that we consider any other business that might be brought up before this committee. I think there are several groups we should have

—the B.B.G. and the C.A.B. Also, I think we should have a report from the C.B.C. as to what they did with our recommendations of last year. Certainly, there are individuals who would like to appear.

Mr. Chairman, have you any correspondence from any individuals who might wish to appear before this committee?

Before we go on with Mr. Pickersgill's motion, I think we should decide the possible amount of work we may have to do, or should do.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, I believe the C.A.B. are interested in appearing before this committee.

Mr. HALPENNY: My question to you was whether you, as chairman, or the clerk of the committees branch have received any communications from individuals who might want to appear?

The CHAIRMAN: We have only one request from individuals to appear before the committee. This request was received July 14 and, actually, that is the only one we have.

Mr. RICHARD (*Ottawa East*): Who is that from?

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. G. W. Nickerson, from Prince Rupert, British Columbia.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: It will take him four weeks to get here.

Mr. HALPENNY: I wonder, Mr. Chairman, could we assess the possible length of the committee sittings by discussing the time that might be necessary for each one of these groups. Have you any personal thought on that?

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fisher.

Mr. FISHER: Well, my view is that any single one—the C.A.B., the B.B.G. or C.B.C. would involve hours and hours of examination and cross-examination. You will recall what happened last year, with just the C.B.C.; we had 22 or 23 meetings. We were floundering around.

As Hon. MEMBER: Well, you can disagree, but I was speaking of floundering in terms of chasing detail, and so on. Even with an organization which is less contentious, such as the C.A.B., I do not see how we can handle it in less than five or six meetings. There is a range of view on this matter.

Mr. FAIRFIELD: Surely these groups, such as the B.B.G. and the C.A.B., have briefs; could they not be presented to this committee. In this way, the committee could dissolve, and be able then to study these briefs in preparation for next year.

It seems to me, as Mr. Fisher suggests, that in taking one—even the C.B.C.—it would open a great field of questioning which, I am sure, never would be completed.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. McCleave, have you a comment?

Mr. MCCLEAVE: Mr. Chairman, my views are very much the same as Dr. Fairfield.

At least, I think we should receive a brief from the C.A.B., if possible, and that will give us completion, as it were, of the major groups. We have had the C.B.C. and B.B.G. before, and the C.A.B. would round out the picture. I think they should be asked, if possible, to submit a brief before parliament closes.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Robichaud.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: It seems to me, as the government saw no urgency in setting up this committee, and not until late in the session, there must not be such urgency to hear these briefs, and they can wait until the next session, when we are able to give careful study to them.

The government has decided, at the last minute of the session, to set up this committee, although it was promised that it would be set up early in the session. This was promised last year. Why, all at once, is there such an urgency to have these briefs presented?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Perhaps, if I could say a word—because Mr. Robichaud was a little later than I was in getting to the meeting.

I agree with Mr. Robichaud that if we are going to hear people, we want to be able to examine them. But, if not, I go along with Mr. Fairfield's suggestion—that they merely submit their briefs in writing so that they will be available during the recess, in order that when the committee did meet again we will be familiar with them. That suggestion commends itself to me. I think it is a very sensible idea indeed. I would certainly be prepared to support that, once we dispose of the point raised in my motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone who wishes to speak on Mr. Pickersgill's motion?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I would like to speak on it again myself. If it could be understood that the committee would be prepared to recommend to the house in its report that the first business of the committee next year should be along the lines of my motion, I would not press my motion to a vote.

Mr. HALPENNY: As one of the members of this committee I would be glad to go along with that so long as the opposition will not claim there is too much work.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: We will not complain about it in February, March, April or up until the 15th of May.

Mr. MCCLEAVE: I take it that the tempers will go up as the thermometer goes up.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: If Mr. Halpenny is speaking for the majority of the members of the committee—

Mr. HALPENNY: I cannot.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: We can find out from the expression on their faces and so on, and if so, I would be prepared not to press my motion.

An hon. MEMBER: There might be a commitment.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Whether there is a commitment or not it has been made clear by the Liberal opposition and also Mr. Fisher that this is what the opposition does want to do.

Mr. HALPENNY: We can ask that the committee be reconvened after the opening of the next session.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I think the first business should be to go through the Broadcasting Act.

Mr. HALPENNY: I do not go that far. I think there are several things we should consider. If we go along with your thought that we recommend that we open up soon after the session begins, certainly we will have time to consider that along with other things.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I want it clearly understood that this should be the first item on the agenda for next year. It should be in our report. It will not bind this committee but will be an indication of our opinion. If we do not do that I will press my recommendation to a vote.

Mr. RICHARD (Ottawa East): I think we should consider first things first. The main thing is the Broadcasting Act and then the board of broadcast governors report on radio, television and so on. After that we could hear the C.A.B. and individuals and groups who want to speak. I do not know why we should deviate from that.

Mr. HALPENNY: I think that is a matter of personal opinion. I do not think we should consider the legislation until we have heard from all the groups who are in broadcasting in Canada. Then we could consider the legislation much more wisely.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: We would once again come to the end of a session—

Mr. HALPENNY: I go along with you that we should review the act, but I do not think we should recommend—

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Do you not think we should carry out the commitment given us by the minister.

Mr. HALPENNY: Yes, but we should go into all the aspects of broadcasting in Canada and then intelligently consider the act.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the committee agree with Mr. Fairfield's proposal that we ask the C.B.C., the B.B.G. and the C.A.B. to submit their briefs in writing first.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I do not think we can take that up until we have disposed of this other matter. It does seem to me there would not appear to be sufficient consensus of view in this matter. The minister in 1958 promised that there would be a priority in 1959. It was not done in 1959 and now apparently it will be difficult to get it done in 1961. If there is not that view, I want it on record as to who is in favour of doing that and who is not.

Mr. FORGIE: Could there not be included a statement to the effect that the minister had promised the review of this act. I do not think the minister would object to that.

Mr. FAIRFIELD: If you go back to *Hansard* of August, 1958, you will find there was no outright commitment by the minister.

Mr. FORGIE: I would assume there was.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: There has always been an assumption, except for the lady, that the rest of us all are gentlemen.

The CHAIRMAN: Does anyone wish to speak on Mr. Pickersgill's motion before I put the question?

Mr. HALPENNY: As I take it, you are recommending a matter of procedure.

The CHAIRMAN: I will read the motion: moved by Mr. Pickersgill seconded by Mr. Forgie, that if the committee is to hold any hearings the first order of business should be to call the Minister of National Revenue to examine section by section the Broadcasting Act of 1958.

Mr. HALPENNY: I cannot agree with that.

Mr. PRATT: Mr. Chairman, I would go along with the intelligent idea Mr. Halpenny had. I think we would be in a much better position to discuss and possibly amend this act after we have heard from the people who know something about broadcasting.

Mr. HALPENNY: In London, for example, there are two thousand people who subscribe to a piped service. I think that should be considered. There should be something which would cover that. There are certain areas of broadcasting that we should know something about before we make any recommendations concerning the act. That is why I cannot go along with Mr. Pickersgill's motion.

The CHAIRMAN: I will put Mr. Pickersgill's motion to a vote. Those in favour of the motion?

Those opposed?

Motion negatived.

Mr. FISHER: I would like to move a motion, but before I do so I do not know whether any members remember a question I asked Mr. Nowlan last year when he was before the committee on broadcasting. I said:

At the time the new act was being introduced in the house last year, you said one of the duties, or you suggested one of the duties of this committee would be to review the legislation in so far as the C.B.C. board of directors was concerned and how it is working. In the light of this situation and the misunderstanding about the advice, are you of the opinion that that should be one of the prime functions of this committee? I am asking this partly as a member of this committee to find out whether this is actually working at the present time in so far as the C.B.C. board of directors is concerned.

Then there is an interjection by the chairman and then Mr. Nowlan said:

I will answer it in thirty seconds. I think it is the function of this committee to make recommendations on anything it sees fit in respect of legislation, administration or otherwise. Quite frankly, I would hope that all members of parliament in this room would agree with me this is not the time at the end of a session, if we want to get home some time, to introduce any amendments or any recommendations which might involve amendments, if the government decided to introduce accordingly. In other words, I hope this session will conclude without any more legislation on the order paper, in any event, in respect of the C.B.C.

This was, I think, on July 2, last year, and we broke up on July 18.

I would like to move that this committee ask the Canadian association of broadcasters, the board of broadcast governors, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation each to file with the clerk of this committee a report on their appraisal of the workings of the Broadcasting Act as it affects their organization in particular, or broadcasting in general; and more particularly with regard to the C.B.C. that it outline its responses and reasons therefor to the recommendations of the house committee on broadcasting of 1959.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Chairman, I second this motion.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Question?

The CHAIRMAN: Do you insist on my reading the motion again?

Mr. HALPENNY: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Robichaud, that the chairman of this committee ask the Canadian association of broadcasters, the board of broadcast governors, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation each to file with the clerk of this committee a report on their appraisal of the workings of the Broadcasting Act as it affects their organization in particular or broadcasting in general; and more particularly with regard to the C.B.C. that it outline its responses and reasons therefor to the recommendations of the house committee on broadcasting of 1959.

Mr. HALPENNY: Might I ask Mr. Fisher, through the Chair, is it his intention that we consider all those this session.

Mr. FISHER: No; it is just that they be filed and that the clerk make provision to see that the members, in an unofficial way, have them—whether the house is in session or not—so that we will have some idea of them when we start next year.

Mr. HALPENNY: Is it your thought that once this is done we discontinue any further meetings this year and study these over the recess.

Mr. FISHER: Yes.

Mr. McCLEAVE: In respect of Mr. Fisher's motion. I am wondering if we could expect that these three groups would file before the end of the session. There is no statement as to time in the motion.

Mr. FISHER: I doubt it and that is the reason I worded it the way I did. They can file it through the committee clerk. The committee clerk can make the arrangements. When the notice goes out it is an official notice even though our power lapses and I think they will respond by filing.

Mr. McCLEAVE: Then I assume that the briefs will be filed after we have gone home when the committee no longer is meeting and that we will have the courtesy extended to us of receiving these reports so that we can study them during the recess.

The CHAIRMAN: Of course.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I hope that will be possible.

Mr. HALPENNY: Should Mr. Fisher add something to the statement as to why we are asking for this—so that it can be considered and that the committee will ask parliament to reconvene as soon as possible.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I wonder if there should not be a second motion to that effect.

The CHAIRMAN: We will take Mr. Fisher's motion first. Is it unanimous? Motion agreed to.

Mr. HALPENNY: I would move, seconded by Mr. McCleave, that this committee ask parliament to reconvene as soon as possible after the opening of the next session so that we could consider the reports mentioned in Mr. Fisher's motion and any other business that we might see fit to consider.

Mr. FISHER: Could I speak to the motion?

The CHAIRMAN: Is that a formal motion you are making?

Mr. HALPENNY: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Who will second the motion?

Mr. McCLEAVE: I second that motion.

Mr. FISHER: Where do we stand? I would like to know the date at which we could set up this committee. It seems to me we should get the business of this committee started as soon as possible.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Would you mind if I interrupted you?

Mr. FISHER: Go ahead.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I think I should be very guarded in my language, as Mr. McCleave is here. I think Mr. McCleave and I have some reason to believe that there may be certain mechanical changes which may make that more probable.

Mr. HALPENNY: I am very glad to hear that. Let us make this unanimous.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I would ask Mr. Halpenny to amend his motion, or I will move a formal amendment to it, to include in it the suggestion that we examine the Canadian Broadcasting Act. If Mr. Halpenny is willing to put that suggestion in, I would not move the formal amendment.

Mr. FAIRFIELD: Would you be prepared to amend your motion to say "at the session of 1961" in case there happens to be an emergency session in the fall?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Perhaps you could say the next regular session.

Mr. McCLEAVE: Would you allow us a moment to get our motion drafted?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Did you hear my request?

Mr. McCLEAVE: Yes.

Mr. HALPENNY: We move that this committee recommend to the House of Commons that a special broadcasting committee reconvene as soon as possible after the opening of the next regular session to consider the reports mentioned in Mr. Fisher's motion, and to study the Canadian Broadcasting Act.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I am quite prepared to vote for this motion, but that does not mean I will not do my best, if I am a member of the committee, to give the Canadian Broadcasting Act consideration first.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Perhaps it should not be "reconvene" but "set up".

The CHAIRMAN: I doubt if I will be able to read your handwriting, Mr. Halpenny. Would you read your motion? I could read Mr. Pickersgill's handwriting easily.

Mr. CHOWN: The motion is on the record.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I think the motion is now on the record.

Mr. Chairman, while Mr. Halpenny is writing out his motion, and knowing how deeply interested you would be in being present at the opening of the federal-provincial conference in order that you could hear the new premier of Quebec, I would hope that this committee would be able to adjourn very quickly.

The CHAIRMAN: You are speaking of my predecessor.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Yes, your predecessor.

The CHAIRMAN: May I add that he was a personal friend of mine as well.

Mr. HALPENNY: I will read the motion for the record. I move, seconded by Mr. McCleave, that this committee recommend to the House of Commons that a special broadcasting committee be appointed as soon as possible after the opening of the next regular session to consider the reports mentioned in Mr. Fisher's motion, and to study the Canadian Broadcasting Act. Is that satisfactory?

Motion agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: It is unanimous.

I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I move that we adjourn.

Mr. PRATT: I second it.

Motion agreed to.

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